the original target formation was at 6000 mtrs. depth and the target formation has later been revised to lower depth; and

(b) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The target depth of well Ichapur-1 has been revised to 5600 m. based on the drilling results and its integration with seismic and other geo-scientific data.

**Drilling in West Bengal**

1883. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) furnish a chart showing the rate of oil drilling at different depths in the same location and at different locations in West Bengal; and

(b) the reasons for the slow rate of drilling, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The rate of penetration while drilling depends on the depth of drilling, size of hole, type of formation, hardness and drillability of the rock and hence drilling rate would vary at different locations and depths. Since 1988-89 the drilling rate in various wells drilled by ONGC in West Bengal has varied from 1.85 to 8.14 metres per hour.

**Setting up of Mini Refinery at Kharsang in Arunachal Pradesh**

1884. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the current rate of royalty per ton on crude oil explored from Kharsang oilfield of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have not made any proposal to establish a mini refinery at Kharsang in spite of several demands made by the local people of Kharsang area; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) For the period 1-4-1990 to 31-3-93 the rate of Royalty has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 481/- per metric tonne.

(b) and (c) The production from the Kharsang field is too small to make a mini-refinery viable and there is adequate refining capacity available to process this crude oil in the North East.

**Gas Distributorships in Thane**

1885. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of gas distributors in Thane revenue districts are far too inadequate in relation to existing customer holding and wait listed customers;

(b) the number of gas distributorships advertised during last five years company-wise and location-wise and the number of gas Distributorships commissioned out of the above advertised locations in Thane district;

(c) the number of locations approved as per the plans for appointment of gas distributors in the State of Maharashtra company-wise and whether these locations are not advertised due to non-functioning of Oil Selection Board; and

(d) when Government proposes to finalise selection of gas distributors ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) There is demand for setting up more LPG distributorships in Thane district.

(b)

| *Location Advertised* | *Company* |
|---|---|
| 1. Nallasopara | HPC |
| 2. Airoli | " |
| 3. Mira Road | " |
| 4. Dombivli (4) | BPC |
| 5. Ulhasnagar (2) | BPC |